AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 34. *Cancelled*

35. *(Previously presented)* The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein said polynucleotide has a sequence of about 10 to about 50 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to the first nucleic acid sequence.

36. *(Previously presented)* The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein said polynucleotide has a sequence of about 15 to about 35 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to the first nucleic acid sequence.

37. *(Previously presented)* The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide analog or a non-naturally occurring nucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of phosphorothioates, phosphoramidates, methyl phosphonates, chiral methyl phosphonates, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides and peptide nucleic acids.

38. *(Currently amended)* A polynucleotide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
CGT TCC TCT TCC TGC GGC CTG AAA CGG TGA (SEQ ID NO:2)
CGT TCC TCT TCC TGC GGC CT (SEQ ID NO:3)
CGT TCC TCT TCC (SEQ ID NO:4)
CTG ACA GAG CCC AAC TCT TCG CGG TGG CAG (SEQ ID NO. 5)

CTG ACA GAG CCC AAC TCT TC (SEQ ID NO:6)
CCA ACT CTT CGC GGT GGC AG (SEQ ID NO:7)
~~GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG GTG GAA GGC GGC AGG (SEQ ID NO:8)~~
GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG GTG G (SEQ ID NO.9)
GCT CTA GAA TGA ACG (SEQ ID NO:10)
GCT CTA GAA TG (SEQ ID NO:11)
GCT CTA G (SEQ ID NO:12)
CAT TTT TTG TTT GCT CTA GA (SEQ ID NO:13) and
CGG GCC AGC AGC TGA CA (SEQ ID NO:14).

39. *(Previously presented)* A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide as recited in claim 38 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40. *(Canceled)*

41. (*Canceled*)

42. *(Previously presented)* The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a sequence of at least 7 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to the first nucleotide sequence within an accessible region of the RNA component of a human telomerase (hTR), said accessible region being nucleotides 290-319 of SEQ ID NO:16.

43. *(Previously presented)* The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a sequence of at least 7 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to the first nucleotide sequence within an accessible region of the RNA component of a human telomerase (hTR), said accessible region being nucleotides 350-380 of SEQ ID NO:16.

44. *(Currently amended)* A pharmaceutical composition consisting of a polynucleotide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein the polynucleotide

(a) has a sequence of at least 7 nucleotides that specifically hybridizes to a ~~the~~ first nucleotide sequence within an accessible region of the RNA component of a human telomerase (hTR), wherein the accessible region is selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 290-319 and nucleotides 350-380 of hTR (SEQ ID NO:16),

(b) does not hybridize to a second nucleotide sequence within the template region of the hTR, said template region being nucleotides 46-55 of SEQ ID NO:16, and

(c) is effective to inhibit the synthesis of telomeric DNA by telomerase.

45. *(Previously presented)* The pharmaceutical composition of claim 39, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide analog or a non-naturally occurring nucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of phosphorothioates, phosphoramidates, methyl phosphonates, chiral methyl phosphonates, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides and peptide nucleic acids.